

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

As Arab gov'ts recognize Israel,  
space opens for workers' struggles  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 85/NO. 3 JANUARY 25, 2021

## Protest in NY backs India farmers' fight for their land

BY ROY LANDERSEN

NEW YORK — “The Indian government is unjustly supporting the large corporations, which will eventually lead to the downfall of small farmers,” Kulwinder Kaoner Singh told this *Militant* reporter at a Jan. 9 protest. Over 120 people attended to support the ongoing mass actions by farmers in India. Caravans of cars converged from parts of New York City, New Jersey and elsewhere at the Times Square solidarity rally.

Hundreds of thousands of farmers remain camped along four main roads into New Delhi, the Indian capital, at the largest sustained protests in the country for decades. They are demanding Prime Minister Narendra Modi end his threat to their livelihoods by repealing new laws that would remove state price supports for staple crops and drive more indebted family farmers off the land.

The action by family farmers, mainly from the northern states of

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## Join Socialist Workers Party campaign!

BY SETH GALINSKY

“Workers are the only class capable of leading the fight to change the conditions we face and to confront the capitalist economic and social crisis,” Joanne Kuniansky told working people she met in Paterson, New Jersey, Jan. 10, her first day campaigning as Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor in the 2021 election.

Kuniansky, who works at Walmart, and Candace Wagner, her running mate for lieutenant governor, are among the first candidates announced by the SWP this year. Wagner is a freight rail conductor and a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.

The party will have a national slate of candidates for local offices in nearly a dozen cities around the country. Campaign supporters are mapping out plans to collect the signatures needed to get the party on the ballot.

In Washington state, the SWP has nominated rail worker Henry Dennison for Seattle mayor and retail worker Rebecca Williamson for City Council.

Candidates and campaign supporters are reaching out to working people on their doorsteps, in cities and towns, on farms, at plant gates, taxi lines and truck stops. They will bring solidarity to workers on strike for better wages and working conditions, and join protests

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Patch/Nick Garber

Laid off Marriott Marquis hotel workers in New York protest in Times Square Dec. 23 over cut in severance pay and bosses refusal to commit to bring them back if hotel reopens.

### Working people need to build our own party, a labor party

As the social, political and moral crisis of capitalism continues to unfold, workers need to organize together to fight for our own class interests against the bosses and their government. We can stand up to their assaults on our jobs, wages and working

## EDITORIAL

conditions and join struggles against cop brutality, the capitalist rulers' use of the barbaric death penalty and for a woman's right to choose abortion. We can build solidarity with workers

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### Workers look for road to fight layoffs, boss attacks

BY TERRY EVANS

Over 140,000 jobs were obliterated by the crisis of capitalism in December as workers face joblessness and boss attacks on wages and working conditions, exacerbated by growing infections of coronavirus.

Bosses at the airlines, Constellium aluminum plant in Alabama, at Gate Gourmet and Shell Canada in Quebec, and elsewhere are demanding workers make concessions to shore up company profits. Workers and farmers are looking for a road to defend their conditions and to fight for a way forward.

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## Cuban people 'will never negotiate the revolution or our sovereignty'



Militant/Mike Schur

From left, Pedro Luis Pedrosó, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, and Dave Prince and Mary-Alice Waters, from the Socialist Workers Party National Committee, at celebration of the 62nd anniversary of the Cuban Revolution Jan. 9 in New York City.

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — This past year “was an especially challenging and complex year for our country,” Ambassador Pedro Luis Pedrosó, Cuba's permanent representative to the United Nations, said at a Jan. 9 celebration of the 62nd anniversary of the Cuban Revolution here. In addition to confronting a worldwide pandemic, the administration of President Don-

ald Trump “tried everything in its attempt to break our resistance and force us to make concessions.”

“But once again the imperialist masters were wrong,” Pedrosó said. “Not only were they unable to crush our patriotic and revolutionary resistance, we can show achievements and lessons that make the revolution more robust.”

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## Cops fired in killing of Breonna Taylor ‘should be put on trial’

BY MAGGIE TROWE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The long-overdue firing of two cops involved in the killing of Breonna Taylor here last March is a step forward that opponents of police brutality and racism can build on.

Nearly 10 months after police broke down the door of the 26-year-old African American emergency room technician's apartment in the middle of the night, shot her and left her dying on the floor, interim chief of the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department Yvette Gentry announced the firing of detectives Myles Cosgrove and Joshua Jaynes at a press conference Jan. 5.

“They should do jail time,” Machala Apatong, a Walmart produce worker, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent when I asked her reaction. Apatong encouraged co-workers to take part in a march of 200 against police killings last year in her hometown of Radcliff, southwest of here.

Cosgrove, who the FBI says fired the

shot that killed Taylor, was dismissed for violating procedures in using force and failing to use a body camera.

Jaynes was found in violation of department policy for truthfulness because

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Quebec oil terminal, airline  
catering workers fight lockouts



Police arrest over 50 protest leaders in Hong Kong raids

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In an attack on working people and youth fighting for political rights in Hong Kong, 1,000 police carried out a series of predawn raids Jan. 6 and arrested 53 people, claiming they were plotting to subvert the city’s government. This was the biggest crackdown since Beijing imposed a repressive national security law last June on this supposedly semi-autonomous territory.

Those targeted included organizers and participants in an unofficial primary held last July to determine which opposition candidates would run for the Legislative Council in elections planned for September. More than 600,000 people took part. Organizers hoped to win all 35 of the elected seats in the council, and take a majority in the 70-seat legislature for the first time. Many of these candidates were subsequently barred from running by the government, and officials then postponed the election for a year, citing the coronavirus pandemic.

The national security law criminalizes activities that Beijing defines as secession, subversion, terrorism or collusion with foreign forces, with terms of up to life in prison. It’s aimed at silencing the over 1 million people who took to the streets in massive demonstrations beginning in 2019 demanding direct elections for the entire Legislative Council and the chief executive officer, who is now selected by a Beijing-controlled committee, as well as for a halt to growing cop repression of protests.

Under the 1997 agreement ending British colonial rule in Hong Kong, the city’s assembly was supposed to enact its

own “security” measures. But a demonstration of half a million in 2003 forced legislators to withdraw their proposals, and no replacement was ever submitted. This finally led Beijing to impose its own restrictions on Hong Kong.

A total of 72 homes and other locations were searched in the Jan. 6 raids, and four media companies were given a court order to turn over all materials related to the investigation. Six individuals were arrested for organizing the primary; 47 others for participating in it. More arrests could be made, police official Steve Li Kwai-wah told the media.

Those arrested join other prominent organizers of protests over the last year detained earlier.

Among the premises that the cops searched was that of 24-year-old protest leader Joshua Wong. He’s been in prison since last month serving a 13½-month sentence on frame-up charges of participating in an “unauthorized” peaceful protest in 2019.

“We must stand up and fight and let Beijing know that we will never surrender,” he told the press at a protest action of thousands last May.

Wong, one of the winners in the primary vote, was among 12 opposition candidates disqualified by Beijing from running in the now postponed legislative election.

Authorities told him in prison that he’s also suspected of violating the national security law. They then demanded he make a statement on this new charge, according to a post on his Facebook page. His lawyer wasn’t present.

After more than 40 hours of de-



Yat Kai Yeung

Marchers in Hong Kong May 24, 2020, protest Beijing’s moves to impose national security law that restricts protests, free speech and tightens Chinese government control over territory.

tention all but three of the 53 were released on bail. None have yet been formally charged.

In November, after Beijing passed a resolution empowering Hong Kong officials to unseat dissenting politicians without going through the courts, four legislators were immediately removed. The 15 other opposition assembly mem-

bers resigned in protest later that day. Despite government regulations to restrict protests, imposed under the pretext of stopping the pandemic, actions have continued to occur, though smaller in size. On New Year’s Eve hundreds gathered and sang the protest anthem “Glory to Hong Kong” on the city’s waterfront before being dispersed by police.

‘Stimulus’ fund to the ‘Militant’ more than doubles to \$29,672!

BY JOHN STUDER

As government “stimulus” checks in the mail begin to join online payouts that started earlier, contributors and donations to the *Militant’s* special fund appeal more than doubled over the last week! We have a running total of \$29,672 from 65 supporters of the paper. “For the best paper anywhere,” Jim White wrote for himself and his companion Carla Hoag from the Bay Area, along with their \$900 donation. “I’m very happy to write out this check,” Lisa Rottach wrote from the Twin Cities with her \$600 contribution.

Every week the *Militant* presents unmatched firsthand coverage of today’s working-class struggles in the U.S. and worldwide. From protests against the capitalist rulers’ barbaric death penalty to the massive mobilizations of farmers in India, to the accomplishments and example of the Cuban Revolution. And of

the lessons of 175 years of class struggle in the capitalist and imperialist epoch. It highlights the fighting program and campaigning of the Socialist Workers 2021 candidates. They explain politics is class against class, the interests of the workers and all the exploited against the interests of the bosses and their government. To advance a road for workers to defend ourselves and toward workers taking political power in their own hands to end the dictatorship of capital and its brutal consequences, and build a world based on solidarity. This special fund appeal will help the *Militant* meet its expenses today and put the party in a stronger position to respond to developments in the class struggle here and worldwide. Please give as generously as you can. Send your contribution to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018, or online at themilitant.com.

THE MILITANT

*Back workers who stand up to bosses, gov’t*

*Some 400 Steelworkers struck Constellium Dec. 15 when company tried to bribe them with a wage increase while gutting seniority rights, working conditions. Many workers are standing up to bosses and their government as they drive to make us bear cost of deep capitalist crisis.*

Militant/Sam Manuel  
Steelworkers Local 200 pickets Jan. 2 at Constellium in Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

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# Join SWP 2021 campaign!

**Continued from front page** against police brutality and the U.S. economic war against Cuba. Dennison and Williamson and their campaign supporters have joined protests in solidarity with farmers in India fighting for their livelihoods.

“Workers and farmers in India and the U.S. face the same challenges and the same crisis of capitalism,” Dennison told the *Militant*.

Campaign supporters are meeting workers who are looking for ways to defend their interests.

“How can young people get their independence and a place of their own when rents are out of control and jobs pay so little?” retiree Beverly Scott told SWP campaigner Terry Evans after inviting him into her kitchen in Paterson. “The middle class has got more to fall back on, but it’s impossible for the rest of us to save,” said Scott, who had worked with disabled children.

## Build a labor party

When she saw the *Militant* headline “Workers Need to Build Our Own Party, a Labor Party” she said, “That’s what I’m for — labor.”

“A labor party based on our common struggles would give workers a voice in politics,” Evans said, “and unite us to fight for what we need, not what the bosses say is possible. That’s what the SWP campaigns for.”

Scott described going with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, her union, to a Martin Luther King Day march in Washington, D.C., some years ago. “When you see all of us together, you realize we have power,” she said.

Evans introduced Scott to Kuniansky, who was campaigning nearby. She was pleased to meet the SWP candidate. “I want to march. I want to do anything that can bring us progress,” Scott said, and subscribed to the *Militant*.

Many of those who campaigners meet will want to join them at protest actions or picket lines, help campaign, or set up house meetings for the candidates and introduce the SWP and its action program to friends and co-workers.

The SWP campaign puts forward demands that workers and our unions can fight for today. It explains that workers need to wrest control of production from the bosses to have charge over safety and all aspects of what is made. The bosses organize production to maximize their profits with no regard for the health and safety of workers nor that of people living near their factories and other workplaces.

**Recommended reading**  
**In Defense of the**  
**US Working Class**  
by Mary-Alice Waters



“The years that are coming will bring organized resistance — worldwide — by growing vanguards of working people.”

[pathfinderpress.com](http://pathfinderpress.com)

As workers step up struggles for better wages and conditions they will see the need to join together to fight for and establish unions. Every union contract should have an escalator clause that ensures when prices go up, wages also rise by the same amount so workers do not bear the brunt of the crisis.

“It’s important to fight for protection from the impact of today’s crisis,” Kuniansky told workers she met. “As we do so we gain confidence and become conscious of our power as a class. As we advance our struggles more working people can be won to recognizing the need to replace capitalist rule with our own government.”

SWP campaigns in 2021 will set an example that working people can break with the lesser evil shell game of choosing between the capitalist Democratic and Republican parties.

## ‘Militant’ renewal drive

The campaigns will also give a boost to the drive to get readers of the *Militant* to renew their subscriptions over the next two months and to read books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries.

The renewal drive got off to a good start in New York over the Jan. 9 weekend. Three readers renewed their subscriptions and two purchased books.

In Aurora, Illinois, Socialist Workers Party member Dan Fein spoke with Christine York on her doorstep Jan. 9. “I take care of my elderly sick mother. The state pays me only for 15



Militant/Craig Honts

Beverly Scott, left, met Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor in New Jersey, Jan. 10. Looking over the *Militant*, she said, “That’s what I’m for — labor.”

hours a week, but I put in many more hours than that,” she said.

“I don’t trust the Democrats or Republicans. They say they are going to help us, but they don’t,” said York. “I am an independent.”

“The Socialist Workers Party is a working-class party,” Fein said. “The Democrats and Republicans are capitalist class parties of the rich. We call for workers and our unions to form a labor party based on a fighting union movement.”

York subscribed to the *Militant* and purchased two books: *Tribunes of the People* and *the Trade Unions* along with

*Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

York introduced Fein to her neighbor, Juan Delatorre, who she thought would also be interested in the *Militant*. He was home recovering from a shoulder operation after getting injured on the job. Delatorre got a *Militant* subscription and *In Defense of the US Working Class* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.

Craig Honts in Union City, New Jersey, contributed to this article.

# Socialist Workers Party fighting action program

**THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY PRESENTS A FIGHTING WORKING-CLASS PROGRAM. WE NEED TO ORGANIZE TO FIGHT GROWING EMPLOYER ATTACKS ON OUR JOBS, WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS.** Build solidarity with workers’ struggles to organize and defend themselves. On this course, we can build and use union power on our own behalf, and for all those suffering blows by the bosses and their government. One union for all drivers — taxi, Uber, Lyft and other app-based and car service drivers!

**MILLIONS NEED JOBS TODAY!** Our unions need to fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building hospitals, schools, housing, mass transportation and much more that workers need. Fight for a sliding scale of hours and wages to stop layoffs and the effects of runaway prices. Cut the workweek with no cut in pay! For cost-of-living clauses in every contract that raise pay and retirement benefits to offset every rise in prices!

**DEMAND IMMEDIATE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AT UNION SCALE FOR ALL THOSE THROWN OUT OF WORK AS LONG AS THEY NEED IT.**

**WORKERS NEED THEIR OWN PARTY, A LABOR PARTY.** For our unions to lead a class break from the parties of the bosses, the Democrats and Republicans. A labor party can organize workers in our millions to fight in our own interest and in the interests of all those exploited and oppressed by capital. It can chart a course to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and establish a workers and farmers government.

**WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION.** Workers need to fight to wrest

control of production out of the hands of the bosses. Employers care about profits, not the dangerous conditions we’re forced to work under. This is the only road to take control of and enforce safety and health on the job. Demand the bosses open their books for inspection by workers and consumers. Workers control of production is a school for learning to run the economy ourselves, in the interests of all producers, a crucial step alongside building a labor party to fight to take political power.

**FARMERS — WORKERS’ ALLIES ON THE LAND.** Fight for immediate government relief to fully cover farmers’ production costs, including living expenses for themselves and their families. No more foreclosures! Nationalize the land, guaranteeing its use by those who live on and till it, not “repo” seizures by absentee bankers, landowners, or capitalist farmers.

**AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS** in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For access to driver’s licenses for all.

**OPPOSE WASHINGTON’S WARS.** US hands off Iran, Venezuela and Cuba. US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East. End US colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

**FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL AND OF A CONTIGUOUS PALESTINIAN STATE.** The leaders of Arab states, of Israel and Palestinian leaders need to meet and recognize both the state of Israel and an independent Palestinian state. For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred and murderous violence.

## CUBA’S REVOLUTION — AN EXAMPLE.

The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to transform themselves in struggle, to take political power and uproot capitalist exploitation. End the US rulers’ economic war against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo.

**FIGHT POLICE BRUTALITY!** Demand that cops who kill and brutalize people be prosecuted. Fight racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system, with its frame-ups, “plea bargains,” onerous bail and “three strike” prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex-prisoners and all workers behind bars.

**HEALTH CARE FOR ALL.** Fight for universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care, and retirement income for all.

**WOMEN’S RIGHT TO ABORTION.** Defend women’s right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

**DEFEND POLITICAL RIGHTS.** Defend the right to vote, to free speech and assembly and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Defend freedom of worship. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and disruption. No to reactionary “cancel culture” and efforts to shut up people by public lynching through social media.

**DEFEND RIGHTS OF PRISONERS.** End solitary confinement. End suppression of the *Militant*, books and other newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.



# Despite protests, US government executes first woman since 1953

BY JANET POST

Lisa Montgomery, the only woman on federal death row in the U.S., was executed by lethal injection at 1:31 a.m. on Jan. 13. The Supreme Court vacated three different stays by appeals courts, including an order for a competency hearing to determine whether she was mentally fit to be executed.

Only five women had ever been executed by the federal government before Montgomery, including Ethel Rosenberg, framed up during the anti-communist witch hunt and executed in 1953 on charges of conspiring to commit espionage.

Tens of thousands signed clemency petitions to stop the executions of Montgomery and two other federal prisoners. Cory Johnson is set to be executed Jan. 14 and Dustin John Higgs the next day.

Montgomery became the 11th federal inmate executed since July after a 17-year hiatus. This is the most federal executions in a single year since 1896.

All the federal executions take place

at the Terre Haute Federal Correctional Complex in Indiana. On “Jan. 12 some 40 people rallied across from the prison to oppose Montgomery’s execution,” Naomi Craine, who joined the protest from Chicago, wrote to the *Militant*.

“One protester was Charles Keith from Ohio who has been fighting against the death penalty for many years. His brother, Kevin Keith, was on death row for 16 years before his sentence was commuted to life in prison,” said Craine.

Sylvester Edwards, president of the Greater Terre Haute NAACP, told the *Militant*, “The only way this will end is if we, the people, unite to stop the atrocity of the government carrying out state-sanctioned murder.”

Since Montgomery’s 2007 conviction she had been held in solitary confinement at Carswell medical prison in Fort Worth, Texas, deemed a suicide threat. At least two of her longtime lawyers were infected with coronavirus when they visited her there.

After Montgomery was transported



Reuters/Bryan Woolston

**Jan. 12 protest at Terre Haute, Indiana, federal prison against execution of Lisa Montgomery. Opponents of death penalty are fighting to prevent two more scheduled executions.**

to Terre Haute on Jan. 12 prison authorities held her in a cell in the execution chamber itself, and her reading glasses were taken away.

In 2004, during a psychotic episode, Montgomery traveled from her home in Kansas to Missouri where she killed

Bobbie Jo Stinnett, and removed an unborn baby from her womb. Montgomery told people it was hers. This was after she had been forcibly sterilized and faked several other pregnancies.

Montgomery had been diagnosed with multiple mental and neurological disorders as the result of brain damage at birth and being serially beaten and gang-raped by her stepfather and his friends. She was also sexually assaulted and raped by her first husband, and sexually trafficked by her mother.

Montgomery’s co-counsel, Kelley Henry, described her treatment in solitary to the *New York Post*: “Men see her going to the bathroom. They put her in a suicide gown [a thick garment than can’t be fashioned into a noose] and took away her underwear and socks. She can shower three days per week. I have never had a client, male or female, treated this way.”

Dustin Higgs, 48, was convicted in 1996 of fatally shooting three women on federal wildlife land in Prince George’s County, Maryland, after a dispute at a party. But Willie Haynes, a friend with him that day serving a life sentence, has

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## Cops fired in killing of Taylor ‘should be put on trial’

Continued from front page

he lied to get the search warrant that justified breaking into Taylor’s apartment. He claimed there was evidence Taylor was criminally involved with alleged drug dealer Jamarcus Glover, her ex-boyfriend, and received illicit packages for him. “Detective Jaynes lied when he swore ‘verified through a U.S. Postal Inspector,’” Gentry stated in her termination letter to the officer. And “Detective Jaynes also lied when he swore a U.S. Postal Inspector advised ‘that Jamarcus Glover has been receiving packages at [Taylor’s apartment].’”

No cop has been charged with killing Taylor, nor has anyone been charged with failing to call for medics to attend to her as she lay bleeding to death.

After an initial investigation, Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron announced Sept. 23 that a grand jury had charged one cop — Brett Hankison, who was fired in June — with felony wanton endangerment. He wasn’t charged for killing Taylor, but for firing recklessly into a nearby apartment in the raid. He pled not guilty.

The two other cops who shot at Taylor — Jonathan Mattingly and Cosgrove — weren’t charged at all.

When the cops broke down Taylor’s door her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, was convinced they were in danger. He picked up his gun, which he was carrying legally, and fired, hitting Mattingly. The cops responded with the hail of bullets that killed Taylor.

In Kentucky, like in most states, the law stipulates that if someone fires a gun at police, no matter the circumstances,

the cops are justified in returning fire. This is how the attorney general tried to justify failing to bring charges in Taylor’s killing.

**Protests call for justice**

The killing of Breonna Taylor won broad national and international attention and protest, here and elsewhere, in large towns and small. This pressure is reflected in the latest firings, the ongoing FBI investigation into civil rights violations, and the city government’s decision to pay Taylor’s family \$12 million to settle a civil suit they filed.

But in the absence of working-class leadership from unions, churches and other mass organizations, protests grew smaller and more narrow, as groups car-

rying weapons participated and protest misleaders targeted Caucasians, restaurant owners and others, as opposed to focusing on demanding the cops be held accountable. And these later actions were organized in ways that encouraged vandalism, looting and attacks on cops and bystanders.

“This narrows the space for increasing an understanding that police brutality is an essential component of the continued rule of the capitalist class and its government,” Samir Hazboun, Socialist Workers Party congressional candidate here in the 2020 elections, told the *Militant*. “We can build on the victory of the police firings and demand charges be brought against those responsible for Breonna Taylor’s death.”

## Protest at Kentucky Capitol defends right to abortion

BY KAITLIN ESTILL

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Supporters of women’s rights protested at the state Capitol here Jan. 5. The rally for reproductive rights was co-sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Indiana and Kentucky.

The action targeted two bills in the Kentucky legislature, which reconvened that day. “One of them gives power to the attorney general of Kentucky to open up frivolous lawsuits against the remaining clinics we have in Kentucky,” Jackie McGranahan, from the Reproductive Freedom Project for ACLU Kentucky, told the *Militant*.

This bill, House Bill 2, would separate regulation of clinics that provide abortions from all other health care facilities. It would remove these clinics from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, which licenses and regulates all health care, day care and many other facilities, and turn them over to the state attorney general. Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron has said that if the bill passes he intends to shut down these clinics that provide abortion in the interests of treating coronavirus.

Because of previous attacks there are only two clinics in the state where abor-

tion is available, both located in Louisville. It’s a long trip to them from the more rural eastern part of the state.

Senate Bill 9 would require medical personnel “to preserve the life and health of a born-alive infant” during a “failed abortion.” However, the bill’s sponsor admits that there is no evidence whatsoever that such a situation has ever happened or is likely to happen. “This is a bill based on inflammatory rhetoric and false claims,” the ACLU said in a letter to legislators, “and has nothing to do with how abortion care actually works.”

These two bills had been combined into one bill by the legislature last year and passed, but was vetoed by the governor.

“No government should be so powerful they can force someone to stay pregnant against their will, and certainly not a government that cannot even ensure a person will survive their pregnancy,” Heather Ayer, campaign coordinator of the ACLU Kentucky, told rally participants. “The U.S. has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the developed world and that rate has been increasing for decades. We are actually more likely to die in pregnancy than our parents were.”

“It’s really good to see a public protest being organized around this question,” Socialist Workers Party member Samir Hazboun told McGranahan and other protesters. “The inspiring fight that was waged and won in Argentina shows a broad movement can be built to win advancements for women’s rights.”

“What impressed me about how they organized it in Argentina is they reached out broadly, to factory workers and unions,” he said. “And we believe it’s possible to build that kind of movement in this country.”

McGranahan told Hazboun and this *Militant* worker-correspondent that she thought an obstacle to building a broad movement around a women’s right to family planning, including abortion, is the fact that the word abortion is so stigmatized. “You can barely say the word abortion, there’s such a culture of shame around it,” she said.

The Socialist Workers party talks to workers on their doorsteps all across the country, including about a women’s right to decide if and when she has a child, and we’ve found there is a lot of openness to discussing this, I said. “Actually I had a discussion about this and today’s protest with two of my co-workers at Walmart.”

### Discounted books for prisoners

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# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

**Help the Militant cover labor struggles around the world!** This column is dedicated to spreading the truth about workers struggles for a union movement in every workplace today. It gives a voice to those engaged in battle and helps build solidarity. We need your help to make it a success. If you are involved in a skirmish or strike or know other workers who are, please contact me at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story gets told.

— Roy Landersen

## Quebec oil terminal, airline catering workers fight lockouts

MONTREAL — Locked-out Shell Canada oil terminal workers in Montreal-East and Gate Gourmet airline caterers in the Dorval suburb here, all members of the Unifor union, are joining together to fight moves by their bosses to roll back decades of gains in wages and working conditions and to undermine their unions.

The Gate Gourmet workers were locked out Nov. 10 and the Shell workers Nov. 27. The 20 Shell workers, members of Unifor Local 121, have been without a contract for almost two years. Negotiations for the Gate Gourmet workers, members of Unifor amalgamated Local 698, started last July.

To strengthen each of their struggles, the locked-out workers held a joint solidarity demonstration Dec. 21 on the Shell workers' picket line. About 50 people turned out, including energy workers from other Unifor locals.

Shell Canada bosses are refusing to offer the terminal workers the same terms they agreed to with other oil workers under the National Energy Program, the union-company agreement won in the energy sector. Union officials say that the Shell bosses are initiating an attack against decades of pattern bargaining.

The 8,500 energy workers organized by Unifor across Canada negotiated an industrywide agreement in 2019. Gains were made on wages, severance pay and other issues.

This decision "has one goal only, to break the model contract in oil. They are using COVID-19 as a pretext to attack a union practice that goes back 40 years," said Quebec Unifor Director Renaud Gagné in a Nov. 30 press release. "It's clear to us that some em-

ployers want to use the pandemic to break the unions."

The attack on the Gate Gourmet workers is similar in scale to the one on the Shell workers. The bosses are demanding 145 concessions that would gut the union contract.

Because of the impact of the coronavirus epidemic on the airline industry, all but 20 of the 300 members of the Gate Gourmet bargaining unit were laid off before the lockout.

"The company is trying to make an example of us to use against the Gate Gourmet workers in Toronto in their upcoming negotiations," airline-meal assembler Gerald Carey told the *Militant* at a Dec. 31 march of the locked-out workers to Montreal-Pierre Trudeau International Airport.

"All workers should support them so



Militant/Katy Lerougetel

**Members of Unifor union picket at Shell oil terminal in Montreal Dec. 10. The workers, fighting Shell bosses' union-busting lockout, held joint action with locked out Gate Gourmet workers.**

they have the morale and determination to continue their fight," Devendra Suthar, a co-worker from Walmart, said on the picket line Dec. 12.

These fights need solidarity. Support messages to both the Shell Can-

ada and Gate Gourmet workers can be sent to Marie-Andrée L'Heureux, Unifor Quebec communications representative at marie-andree.lheureux@unfor.org. Tel: (514) 916-7373.

— Félix Vincent Ardea

## US government executes first woman since 1953

**Continued from page 4**

admitted to killing the women and stated that Higgs did not "order him to do it," as the prosecution claimed.

During his entire life, Higgs' 24-year-old son, Da'Quan Darby, has only had contactless visits with his father. Higgs has asthma in addition to COVID-19, so the lethal injection of pentobarbital puts him at greater risk of pulmonary edema, tantamount to death by waterboarding.

The U.S. Justice Department amended its federal execution protocols Nov. 27 to allow executions by firing squad, electrocution and poisonous gas, as well as pentobarbital, if these methods are accepted law in the states where the crimes were committed.

Cory Johnson was sentenced to death along with two other members of a crack-cocaine gang in 1993 in Richmond, Virginia. The three are the longest-serving inmates remaining on federal death row. They were accused of killing 11

people in drug-related activity.

Johnson has been diagnosed as "intellectually disabled" and legally should be exempt from execution. But it wasn't until after Johnson's trial that the U.S. Supreme Court voted in 2002 to bar the execution of people with serious mental illness.

In his drive to win the presidential election, Joseph Biden said he now opposes capital punishment, in contrast to his 30-year political record as a senator. T.J. Ducklo, his press secretary, told the media he couldn't say whether Biden will pause executions.

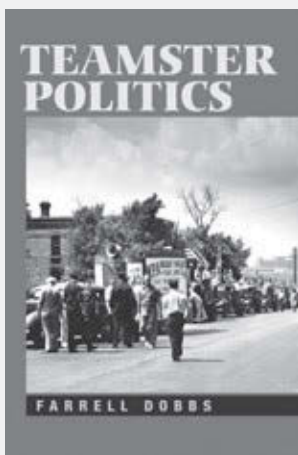
In 1994 Biden co-authored the Senate version of the "Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act," which was passed in a bipartisan vote and signed into law by then President Bill Clinton. It added 60 new offenses subject to the federal death penalty. "We do everything but hang people for jaywalking," Biden bragged at the time.

Seventeen inmates held on state death rows across the country have died from coronavirus, including Ohio death-row prisoner Romell Broom, who died Dec. 28. Broom is remembered for living through one of the most gruesome botched executions in U.S. history in 2009 when executioners attempted to inject a lethal drug cocktail 18 times for over two hours.

### Death penalty to intimidate workers

The capitalist rulers keep the death penalty as a way to intimidate working people in hopes of preventing them from standing up and fighting against exploitation and oppression. Opposition to the barbaric practice has been growing for years. In 2019 a Gallup poll on capital punishment reported that for the first time in its 34 years of polling, a majority prefers life imprisonment for murder over the death penalty, by 60% to 36%.

### Recommended reading



*"Unionism and politics cannot be separated. Power generated at the trade-union level can be shattered by government blows. Workers must enter the political arena as an independent class force, with their own party."*

— Farrell Dobbs

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## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



**January 29, 1996**

Vastly outgunned, 200 Chechen independence fighters held off thousands of Russian troops in the village of Pervomayskoye for three days in mid-January. They demand that Russian forces withdraw from Chechnya, where 40,000 troops invaded 13 months ago. In 1991, Dzhokhar Dudayev was elected president and declared independence for this republic of 1.2 million people.

Chechnya became part of the autonomous mountain republics of the Soviet Union following the Russian revolution in 1917. Under the leadership of V.I. Lenin, the revolutionary government took measures to restore to the people of northern Caucasus land that was stolen from them under czarist rule.

During the 1920s, Joseph Stalin organized a political counterrevolution, destroying the communist leadership and blocking the oppressed peoples from exercising their sovereign rights.



**January 29, 1971**

AUSTIN — When the Texas legislature meets this month, abortion law reform will be one of the primary issues. The new statute, if accepted, will add Texas to the small list of states which have adopted liberalized abortion laws.

The Texas Abortion Coalition voted to support the proposed legislation at its founding conference in Dallas. While not the ultimately envisioned repeal, the abortion proposal would be a significant gain over the 114-year-old present antiabortion law.

TAC has submitted an amendment which would place consent solely in the hands of the woman whether or not she has reached "the age of majority" and would allow the abortion to be performed by a trained paramedical or with the aid of prescribed self-abortive agents, should either or both become available.



**January 26, 1946**

January 21 — At one minute past midnight the battle was joined in the most crucial labor struggle in American history. Eight hundred thousand CIO steelworkers threw down the gauntlet.

The power in action of the organized steelworkers is joined with that of more than 900,000 other striking workers already massed on picket lines from coast-to-coast. First on the honor roll of American labor are the 225,000 General Motors strikers.

They are all fighting for a greater share of the wealth their labor produces. Big Business as a class, these giant corporations enormously enriched by the war, are conspiring to undermine and, if possible, destroy the industrial unions, drive down living standards and inflate prices.

And 1,700,000 workers on the nation's picket lines are determined to battle out these issues to a favorable conclusion.



# Celebrate Cuba's Revolution

Continued from front page

Quoting Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, he added, “They insisted on killing us, but we insisted on living and winning. The Cuban people exceeded their own expectations.”

More than three dozen people joined together at the meeting, which was organized by the New York and New Jersey branches of the Socialist Workers Party. Members of the local Cuba Si coalition also participated.

Surrounded by displays of enlarged photos taken from Pathfinder Press’ *Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa* by Enrique Ubieta — which describes how Cuba’s internationalist medical workers were decisive in pushing back the deadly disease — participants enjoyed a large spread of good food. Ubieta is the editor of *Cuba Socialista*, the theoretical magazine of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party.

Stands full of books on working-class history and writings by SWP leaders, Cuban revolutionaries and other revolutionary fighters lined one wall at the meeting.

“I really appreciate that people in America are celebrating the Cuban Revolution,” Tarik Haskins, a member of the New York-New Jersey Cuba Si coalition and Black Panther who spent years behind bars as a political prisoner, told the *Militant*. “It’s important to me that the Cubans contributed to the liberation of the whole southern African region, with a decisive role in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale that was key to the freedom of Angola.”

## Support for Cuba in the U.S.

Pedroso noted the SWP’s long, unbroken history of support in the U.S. for the struggle to build an “independent, sovereign and socialist Cuba.”

“Even under the most difficult conditions,” he said, “you have been resolutely and decisively supporting our demands for the end of the unjust and criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade that 12 U.S. administrations have maintained against our country, seeking to bring the revolution and our people to their knees.”

“Not even the COVID-19 pandemic could hamper your extraordinary solidarity with Cuba,” Pedroso said.

The ambassador singled out three of

the public activities organized in New York since the pandemic began — the launch of the Pathfinder edition of *Red Zone* at a well-attended event at The People’s Forum in early March; a July 26 picket line at Union Square on the anniversary of the attacks by Cuban revolutionaries on the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba and the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Barracks in the city of Bayamo in 1953, considered the opening of the Cuban Revolution; and a car caravan Dec. 17 demanding an end to the U.S. economic war against Cuba.

He also thanked the *Militant* newspaper for its “tremendous contribution” in telling the truth about the Cuban Revolution over the past six decades.

Pedroso noted that the Cuban people will continue to face challenges in the coming year. “We learned long ago that for those who do not make concessions, there are no easy circumstances.”

“While continuing to face the impact of a criminal blockade, Cuba must strengthen its economy, resume economic growth and development, and permanently control the incidence of COVID-19 in our country,” he said. “With the permanent faith in victory that Fidel left us, we are convinced that our people will sail safely through the new challenges.”

The ambassador reiterated his country’s willingness to build a “respectful and lasting relationship” with the United States, but “we will never accept concessions in our principles or conditions of any kind,” he said. “We will never negotiate the revolution, socialism, or our sovereignty.”

## A socialist revolution

Pedroso was introduced by Mary-Alice Waters, a longtime member of the SWP National Committee, and editor of Pathfinder Press’ series of more than 30 books on the Cuban Revolution.

“It was 62 years ago yesterday that the Liberty Caravan led by Fidel Castro entered Havana after a weeklong journey across Cuba,” Waters said. In every city and town, the population poured into the streets to welcome Fidel and the “Men of Moncada.”

“The popular revolutionary insurrection had triumphed, opening the door to the first free territory, the first socialist revolution in the Americas.”



Participants in Jan. 9 celebration of 62nd anniversary of Cuban Revolution sponsored by SWP in New York, New Jersey. Program featured Pedro Luis Pedroso, Cuba’s ambassador to the United Nations.

“The greatest tribute to Fidel’s leadership and to the capacities of Cuba’s toilers” is that fact: 62 years and counting, she said, “and the Cuban Revolution still stands.”

Waters pointed to the internationalism of the revolution, especially the hundreds of thousands of Cubans — including Ambassador Pedroso — who between 1975 and 1991 had helped defeat the U.S.-backed South African army invasion of Angola, leading to the independence of Namibia, the release of Nelson Mandela and the end of the apartheid regime.

The bourgeois media — both mass and social — refer to the Jan. 6 events at the U.S. Capitol as an “insurrection,” Waters said. “They howl in fear, not of Trump or a handful of out-of-shape paramilitary conspiracy theorists, but of the tens of millions of ‘deplorables’ — working people — who refused to vote for Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris.

“They refused because they *know* them and what a Biden-Harris administration will mean for the working class. That lesson was learned from the bitter experience of life under the Clintons, Bush and Obama.”

The Cuban Revolution was the real thing, Waters said, “a genuinely popular revolutionary insurrection.” When the Batista regime crumbled in face of the revolutionary uprising of millions led by the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement in 1959, “workers and farmers of Cuba began to remake their society. For the first time since the early years of the 1917 October Revolution in Russia they began to show the world what socialism and communism really mean.”

“The Cuban Revolution is our revolution as well,” Waters said. “Together with the revolutionary struggle of the Black proletarian masses that brought down Jim Crow segregation and changed social relations in the U.S. forever, it showed new generations of workers and youth the class forces capable of making a socialist revolution right here in the U.S.”

## ‘A good year’

Dave Prince, the Socialist Workers campaign chair in New Jersey and a longtime member of the SWP National Committee, also spoke.

“In 2020, as the brutal realities of the capitalist crisis unfolded, the SWP and its national ticket of candidates for president, Congress and other offices responded boldly to explain that the working class is the only class that can end the crises of the imperialist epoch, including its wars, racism, and exploita-

tion,” Prince said. “The working class has to take power in struggles that transform us and use the power of a workers and farmers government to rebuild society on the foundation of solidarity in cooperation with the toilers of the world.” This is what the example of Cuba’s toilers has shown us.

“2020 was not a bad year for the Socialist Workers Party, it was a *good* year,” Prince said. “We stood with our class, going to work every day alongside millions of our co-workers, suddenly deemed ‘essential’ by the propertied rulers.”

Prince explained how members of the SWP spoke to thousands of workers and farmers on their doorsteps in cities, towns and rural areas across the country, how they joined strike picket lines and social protests. Prince said the party looks forward to an even better 2021, and introduced Joanne Kuniansky, the Socialist Workers candidate for New Jersey governor in 2021, and Candace Wagner, a rail worker (who couldn’t be there because she was working), as the party’s candidate for lieutenant governor.

He invited all interested to join in helping to put the SWP on the ballot in at least nine states.

Róger Calero, who chaired the program, announced the next activities planned by the Cuba Si coalition in defense of the Cuban Revolution, beginning with a Jan. 31 car caravan.

Over \$1,700 was raised for the work of the New York and New Jersey branches of the Socialist Workers Party. Participants ended the program with an apple cider toast to the Cuban Revolution.

# As Arab gov’ts recognize Israel, space opens for workers

BY SETH GALINSKY

Over the last six months the seven-decades-long boycott of the Jewish state of Israel initiated by Arab governments in the Middle East has begun to break apart. This is good for working people in Israel and the Palestinian territories, throughout the Middle East and beyond.

In a series of steps brokered by President Donald Trump’s administration, the governments of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and most recently Morocco on Dec. 10 established diplomatic relations with Israel. They won’t be the last. This is the most important legacy of the Trump administration’s foreign policy.

President-elect Joe Biden told the press he will “build on” it. While

# Amid crisis, workers look for road to fight layoffs, boss attacks

Continued from front page

In the midst of this, the brief occupation of the Capitol building by a few hundred angry supporters of President Donald Trump and some rightists carrying Confederate battle flags took place Jan. 6. It changed nothing about capitalist rule in the U.S., the challenges working people face today, or the need for the class-struggle action program advanced by the Socialist Workers Party as it announces a national slate of candidates for 2021.

This is the truth, not the hysterical reaction of the middle-class left, the liberal press, as well as Democratic and some Republican politicians to the action. They scream about a fascist coup or attempted insurrection, which shows they know nothing about what either one would look like or the sweeping class forces that would be involved. Within hours Congress resumed debate and accepted the Electoral College’s certification of Joe Biden’s election as president.

The only thing registered by the post-election course of President Donald Trump in furiously challenging the November election, including with his rally Jan. 6, was it caused the Republicans to lose a runoff election in Georgia that cost them a majority in the Senate.

A more accurate gauge of ruling-class opinion about what happened that day was on the stock market, which didn’t wobble until it began to climb on hopes of further government “stimulus” spending. Capitalist investors are confident the incoming administration will continue defending their interests, as the outgoing one did.

## ‘Class against class’

“The fundamental divisions workers confront are class divisions, based on the exploitation of the toiling majority by the ruling propertied families,” Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for New Jersey governor, told the *Militant*. “Workers need our own party, a labor party, to fight uncompromisingly, class against class, for the interests of all the exploited and oppressed.”

Kuniansky, and rail worker Candace Wagner, the party’s candidate for lieutenant governor in that state, are two of the dozen or so candidates the Socialist Workers Party will be announcing over the next few days. In Seattle, the SWP has nominated Henry Dennison for mayor and Rebecca



Volunteers at food pantry in Brooklyn in December distribute boxes of groceries to working families hit hard by prolonged unemployment. Jan. 6 disruption in Washington did not alter anything for working people as social, economic and moral crisis of capitalism continues.

Williamson for City Council.

The conditions facing working people ensure the party’s candidates and fighting action program will get a widespread hearing. The Brookings Institution reports that half a million fewer children will be born this year than in 2019, because young people can’t afford to start families. The myth long offered by capitalist politicians of all stripes — that if workers work hard things will be better for our children — seems less and less plausible for millions.

An estimated 60% of all people in the U.S. can’t handle an emergency expense of \$1,000, even *after* receiving government “stimulus” payments. Ninety million adults say they have difficulties meeting regular monthly expenses.

Last month’s sizable layoffs, which meant the absolute number of jobs in the U.S. fell, were concentrated heavily among workers in the leisure and hospitality industries. But the numbers hired in manufacturing, retail and construction rose in December.

As vaccinations for coronavirus spread and government lockdowns are lifted, odds favor an expansion of jobs. Working people will gain more confidence to fight against attacks from the bosses and their government.

Democrats have begun impeachment proceedings against the president. No one is under any illusion he can be forced out of office before Biden is inaugurated

Jan. 20. What the ferocious campaign against Trump is really aimed at is the tens of millions of “deplorable” working people who voted for him, outraged at the disdain shown them by Washington.

## The liberals target is working people

This visceral hatred for working people was captured in an article describing Trump supporters by Caitlin Flanagan in *The Atlantic* magazine Jan. 10. “Here they were, a coalition of the willing: deadbeat dads, YouPorn enthusiasts, slow students, and MMA fans,” she wrote, who came to Washington where “after a few wrong turns, they had pulled into the swamp with bellies full of beer and Sausage McMuffins, maybe a little high on Adderall, ready to get it done.”

When Hillary Clinton first coined the phrase “deplorables” in 2016, it showed the U.S. rulers had begun to *fear* working people who “see that the bosses and their political parties have no ‘solutions’ that don’t further load the costs — monetary and human — of the crisis of *their*

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# Why did workers state in Yugoslavia come apart in 1990?

The Truth About Yugoslavia: Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention by George Fyson, Argiris Malapanis and Jonathan Silberman is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for January. The contents first appeared as articles in the *Militant* between April and October 1992. The book was used by Socialist Workers Party members to build working-class opposition to the U.S.-led imperialist interventions in the crumbling workers state of Yugoslavia, as Washington acted to gain the upper hand over its European rivals. The ruling Stalinist bureaucracy shattered along warring nationalist lines as it increasingly vied to become rival gangs of capitalist exploiters. The excerpt is from the introduction. Copyright © 1993 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY GEORGE FYSON

As this book goes to press, Washington is preparing to go to war in the former Yugoslavia. Its declared plans include air attacks on bridges, roads, and military positions of the rightist forces in Bosnia linked to the Serbian regime in Belgrade.

Washington has also declared its intention to send tens of thousands of troops, equipped with tanks and other armor and backed up with mas-



People in Zagreb, Croatia, greet liberation by Yugoslav partisans in 1945. Yugoslav Revolution forged unity of workers, peasants across ethnic and religious lines, defeating Nazi German occupation. This marked the initial years of the united workers state forged in Yugoslavia.

sive air power, to enforce a cease-fire in Bosnia. ...

Supporters of imperialist intervention into the Balkans perpetuate the myth of “irreconcilable national hatreds” to rationalize such involvement.

But the explanation for the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia lies not in “age-old animosities” between working people of Serbian, Croatian, or Albanian origin, or those who belong to the Muslim faith and various Christian denominations. Rather, what is happening there is a product of the crisis and growing world disorder of capitalism.

The Yugoslav workers’ state that came out of the revolutionary struggle for national sovereignty and socialism in the 1940s was increasingly dominated by a privileged petty-bourgeois caste. This social layer monopolized power in the state institutions, the officer corps, and the management of the state-owned factories and other economic units. The caste encompassed individuals of every national origin in Yugoslavia and organized its control through the League of Yugoslav Communists, the ruling Stalinist party.

In 1989-91, Stalinist regimes and ruling parties crumbled across Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, often in the face of massive popular protests. These regimes had been weakened by years of growing economic and political crisis. The Stalinist bureaucratic and anti-working-class methods

of planning and management proved incapable of raising labor productivity. The resulting crisis was worsened by the deepening economic stagnation of world capitalism since the mid 1970s.

The League of Yugoslav Communists began to split up in January 1990, following a period marked by skyrocketing inflation, intractable large-scale unemployment, and mounting strike struggles. The entire bureaucratic apparatus of the party, government, and state enterprises fragmented, largely along the lines of the major provincial administrations within the former Yugoslav Federal Republic.

All the contending gangs within the privileged caste have charted a course towards integrating their economies into the world capitalist system, an increasingly difficult task in today’s depression conditions. This endeavor has gone hand in hand with their attempts to begin expanding capitalist market relations in the territory they control. In this process they seek to use the leverage of their privileged political and social positions to establish themselves as the new property-owning class.

These mafia-like gangs have reached out to the various imperialist powers for loans, investments, and other assistance. In turn Bonn, Paris, London, and Washington have sought to reassert or extend their economic and political influence there and throughout the Balkan region.

In order to rally political support,

Yugoslavia’s aspiring capitalists have draped themselves in different nationalist flags, as they fight among themselves to maximize the territory and resources under their control. ...

Workers and peasants of every nationality united to make the revolution, and in the following years succeeded in narrowing some of the extreme regional disparities in industrial development, agricultural productivity, and living standards that existed in the country. Their struggle to defeat the fascist forces, win land reform, and expropriate capitalist industry had a powerful momentum. But over time, the Stalinist misleaders eroded these gains at an accelerating pace, exacerbating social inequalities and regional disparities.

None of the actions of the warring factions anywhere in the former Yugoslavia are in the interests of working people there. Nor will imperialist intervention bring them any relief. ...

[M]illions of workers, farmers, and youth ... recognize that their interests do not lie in the chauvinism of the gangsters who claim to be their “leaders,” or in the efforts to slice up the lands where they live into ever-smaller “ethnic” partitions. And despite the “humanitarian” motives professed by Washington and other intervening imperialist powers, these capitalist regimes will bring nothing to working people in Bosnia and the other former Yugoslav republics except more deaths, destruction, denial of national sovereignty, and brutal economic exploitation.

The Russian revolution of October 1917 showed how working people of city and countryside, under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party of V.I. Lenin, could forge a new state that reached beyond the national divisions and oppression reinforced by landlords and by capitalism. Its example played a powerful role in inspiring the generations that made the Yugoslav revolution of the 1940s. That example remained despite Joseph Stalin’s counterrevolutionary policies and murderous repression that drove working people out of politics from the late 1920s. ...

The Cuban revolution provides an outstanding example of what working people, organized in defense of their interests as a class and in alliance with fellow working people internationally, can achieve.

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January

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The Militant January 25, 2021



# Workers need our own party, a labor party

**Continued from front page**

locked out or forced out on strike by bosses seeking to boost their profits off our backs.

To combat layoffs, workers cannot wait for the government or bosses — who have thrown millions out of work — to provide us with jobs. We need to fight for a shorter workweek with *no* cut in pay to share the available work around. Our unions should mobilize workers to demand a government-funded public works program to put millions back to work at union-scale pay building schools, hospitals, day care and other things working people need.

It will be by organizing as a class challenging the class that exploits us that working people will chart a road forward. As we do so we will counter bosses’ efforts to foster divisions among us and their attempts to get workers to look to the lesser evil among the Democratic and Republican parties.

Joseph Biden assumes the presidency claiming he will govern for “all Americans.” It’s a lie. He will act as chief executive officer for the ruling families. He will defend the bosses’ assaults against working people here at home and deploy their armies against uprisings by working people around the world. This is what every U.S. president has done. And, like them all, Biden and his administration will seek to regulate our lives with disdain for our capacities. This is the biggest chal-

lenge workers face — to transform in struggle our own view of ourselves, our capacities to fight together, and to join in defense of our common class interests.

To advance these interests workers need a party of our own, a labor party, that is forged through our struggles — that does everything to raise our fighting spirits, self-confidence and class consciousness; that teaches workers the root of the problems we face is the rule of the capitalist class; that uncompromisingly defends all those exploited and oppressed by the dog-eat-dog capitalist system.

The best way to advance that perspective today is to join the campaign of Socialist Workers Party candidates around the country in 2021.

They are discussing with working people on doorsteps and at picket lines and social protests, presenting a fighting working-class program that explains how our class *can* wrest control of production from the bosses. They are pointing to hard-fought lessons learned in previous revolutionary struggles, from the rise of the industrial union movement in the 1930s to the powerful example of Cuban workers and farmers holding political power for 62 years. By forging the leadership we need, like they did, working people can fight in order to *win* — replacing capitalist rule and bringing to power our own workers and farmers government. This is truly something to fight for.

# NY protest backs India farmers fight for their land

**Continued from front page**

Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, won support from millions of other farmers and workers across India and many thousands around the world.

When farmers’ protests started “police tried to block the roads,” Chaitanya Bathla said at the New York rally. But “farmers in Haryana let the protesting Punjabi farmers drive through their fields to go around the barricades.”

“The farmers are fighting for their land,” Samposh Bathla, Chaitanya’s mother said. “They won’t give up until Modi backs down.”

Small and medium farmers in Punjab, a majority of whom are Sikh, are among the most affected by the new law, which would abolish government-guaranteed prices, mainly for wheat, rice and other grains. While often inadequate, it helps protect many small farmers from harvest failures after droughts or heavy monsoon rains or from price collapses when bumper harvests flood the market. It also keeps down food prices for millions of working people.

The market regulation was established during the 1960s after widespread famines. Since then higher yield crop varieties, mechanization, irrigation, fertilizer and pesticides became more widely available. Agriculture, which still supports over half the country’s population, was transformed, turning India into one of the world’s largest food producers. But millions of small family farmers were forced into heavy debt to pay for the rising costs of agricultural inputs. Under this burden thousands have committed suicide.

India now has a large rice surplus to sell “to the entire world,” Nitin Gadkari, a senior member of Modi’s government and his Bharatiya Janata Party, told the press Jan. 5. The higher prices market regulation sets are “the problem,” he said.

“The Indian food industry is poised for huge growth,” the Indian government says. It is this source of booming profits — derived from the exploitation of farmers and workers — that the government is driving to place in the grasp of India’s billionaire ruling families.

“For distressed farmers, there is not much land. Modi is looking after Ambani and Adani,” Kulwinder Kaoner Singh told the *Militant* at the New York action. He was referring to Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani and Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, two of the country’s richest capitalists with ties to the BJP government.

With the capital under siege for the past six weeks and talks between farmers and the government stalemated, the country’s Supreme Court intervened to try to get farmers and their supporters off the streets.

“Many states are up in rebellion,” complained Chief Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde Jan. 11. The court suspended implementation of the laws, urging farmers to return to their villages and wait two months while a panel set up by the court holds separate negotiations with farmers and the government.

Many protest leaders say the court’s move doesn’t solve farmers’ problems. “We don’t agree with the committee that has been formed,” Darshan Pal, a leader of the farm organization Samyukta Kisan Morcha, told Bloomberg News. “We are clear about our demand that the laws must not just be suspended, they should be repealed.”

Jap Singh, who chaired the New York rally, urged protesters to reach out to explain the issues to wider layers and to build the next action they are planning on Jan. 26, as a global day of solidarity with the farmers’ fight. On that day farmers in India are planning to drive their tractors into the capital during India’s Republic Day celebrations.

The action in New York will be in front of the U.N. headquarters at 11 a.m.

## LETTERS

### Right to choose abortion

Last week’s article in issue no. 2 on the historic victory in Argentina for a woman’s right to choose abortion was welcome. We also need to refute the lie in the big-business press coverage that gives credit to President Alberto Fernández and Vice President Cristina Kirchner of the Peronist party. While Néstor Kirchner and then his wife Cristina were president, from 2003 to 2015, they opposed decriminalizing abortion. Thousands of women died from back-alley abortions. This record is not surprising, since the Peronists have been the main prop for capitalist rule in Argentina since World War II.

As the *Militant* has reported over two decades, it was only through the tenacious efforts of women’s rights fighters, whose actions grew from small protests to the recent outpourings of hundreds of thousands, that decisive numbers of working people have been won to their demand: “for the right to legal,

safe, and free abortion.” This pushed back the impact of large countermobilizations organized by capitalist forces, including the church hierarchy. It was under this growing mass pressure that Fernández, Kirchner, and other capitalist politicians “saw the light.” It was a victory won *for* and *by* working people.

*Martin Koppel*  
New York, New York

**The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.**

# Gov’ts recognize Israel

**Continued from page 7**

recognize Israel, the White House removed Khar-toum from the U.S. list of “terrorist” nations.

At the urging of the White House, the governments of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt Jan. 5 lifted their embargo on Qatar, imposed in 2017 to punish the Qatari government for its relations with the Iranian and Turkish governments.

The regime in Qatar, home to the largest U.S. military base in the region, tries to balance between the Sunni-based capitalist regimes of the Gulf States and their rival in the Shiite-based regime in Tehran. The Israeli government has worked with the Qatar rulers, encouraging them to send funds to Hamas in the Gaza Strip — over \$1 billion since 2012. Its goal was to avoid a social explosion there while putting pressure on Hamas to restrain terrorist attacks.

### Open road for working-class struggles

None of these capitalist regimes, including Israel, represent working people. These rulers see establishing relations as a way to block the regime in Iran — which through military intervention in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and beyond threatens their interests — and to advance their own economic progress. But the result of the pacts between Jerusalem and the growing number of Arab regimes have opened doors for working people.

Already thousands of Israeli tourists have visited Abu Dhabi, in the UAE. “You can walk around freely there, even with a kippa,” Israeli tour guide Muhammed Suliman, who takes Jewish visitors to Dubai, told *Haaretz*.

Since the pact was signed the government of the UAE has facilitated family reunifications for Jewish Yemenis who have not seen relatives in decades.

According to *Haaretz*, there is talk of UAE financing an oil pipeline and a canal from Eliat — on Israel’s southern Red Sea coast — to Israel’s Mediterranean sea ports.

Most importantly, as these developments unfold there will be renewed openings for working people to press for immediate talks to recognize both Israel and a contiguous, sovereign Palestinian state, including East Jerusalem. And for recognition of the rights of Jews everywhere to take refuge in Israel in the face of the global rise of anti-Semitic violence.

Along this road working people of all religions and beliefs in Israel and Palestine can use political space to organize and fight, to work together and deepen struggles against their common class enemy — the exploiting capitalist rulers.

**For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel**

**Socialist Workers Party statement**

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